

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 11 and 12 are herein cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1-10 and 13 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for obtaining ~~efficient~~ RNA silencing of a target gene comprising:

introducing a recombinant gene into a host comprising ~~a silenced~~ an RNA-silenced locus and the target gene, wherein

the recombinant gene comprises a region of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides that are at least 60% homologous with the silenced locus and

the target gene comprises a region of at least 23 contiguous nucleotides that are at least 60% ~~has homology~~ homologous with the recombinant gene, but has no significant homology with the silenced locus,

thus RNA silencing the target gene.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the host comprises a plant cell.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained ~~in~~ more than 95% of the time in the hosts host.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained ~~in~~ more than 95% of the time in the hosts host.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained ~~in~~ more than 85% of the time in the hosts host.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein RNA silencing of the target gene is obtained ~~in~~ more than 85% of the time in the hosts ~~host~~.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 95% as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 95% as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 85 % as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the RNA silencing of the target gene occurs at an efficiency of more than 85 % as compared to the level of the unsilenced expression of the target gene.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) A plant or plant cell comprising a silenced target gene obtainable by the method according to claim 1.